UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SHORTENED SEASON FOR WHITE-WINGED DOVES IN TEXAS; BALANCE OF DOVE AND PIGEON HUNTING REGULATIONS RELATIVELY UNCHANGED

Dove and pigeon hunting regulations for the 1967-68 season will be relatively unchanged from last year except for a cut in the Texas white-winged dove season, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Based on studies by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the season on white-winged doves there was reduced from 6 half days to 4 half days.

For mourning doves, the season will be 70 half days for the Eastern Management Unit; 60 full days in the Central Management Unit, except for Texas; and 50 full days in the Western Management Unit. Bag limits in all Units will be 12 daily and 24 in possession.

Band-tailed pigeon seasons in California, Washington, and Oregon can be up to 30 consecutive days, with a daily bag and possession limit of 8.

The detailed frameworks, approved by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, within which states will establish their dove and pigeon seasons, are:

MOURNING DOVES

Between September 1 and January 15, states may select seasons conforming to the following conditions:

Eastern Management Unit: (all states east of the Mississippi River and Louisiana)

- 1. Shooting hours from noon until sunset, standard time;
- 2. A daily bag of 12 and possession limit of 24;
- 3. An open season of 70 half days which may run consecutively--or be split into not more than three periods.

Central Management Unit:

(Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming)

- Shooting hours from 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset in all states except Texas;
- 2. A daily bag of 12 and possession limit of 24;
- 3. An open season of 60 consecutive full days in all states except Texas; or
- 4. Split seasons of not more than three periods totaling not more than 60 full days in all states except Texas.

In New Mexico, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate, are 12 and 24.

Texas will again be permitted to select open seasons for each of two established geographical areas subject to the following conditions:

- 1. In the Northern Area, an open season of 60 consecutive <u>half</u> days between September 1 and January 15. Shooting hours are noon until sunset (standard time).
- 2. In the Southern Area, an open season of 60 consecutive <u>half</u> days between September 23 and January 15. Shooting hours are noon until sunset (standard time). But in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy, the season shall be September 2, 3, 9, 10 and an additional 56 consecutive half days which shall open with the 60 half-day season selected for the Southern Area.

Western Management Unit: (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington)

- 1. Shooting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset;
- 2. A daily bag limit of 12 and a possession limit of 24;
- 3. An open season of 50 full days which may run concurrently—or be split into not more than three periods.

In Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, and in Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, California, the daily bag and possession limits on mourning and white-winged doves, singly or in the aggregate, are 12 and 24.

WHITE-WINGED DOVES

In Arizona, a state-wide open season is allowed with daily bag and possession limit of 25. Shooting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform to the dates for mourning doves.

In California, an open season is prescribed only for Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardiono counties. The daily bag is 12 and possession limit is 24 white-winged and mourning doves singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform to those for mourning doves.

In Nevada, an open season is prescribed only for Clark and Nye counties. The daily bag is 12 and possession limit 24 white-winged and mourning doves, singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset. Dates will conform to those for mourning doves.

In New Mexico, a statewide open season is allowed, with daily bag limit of 12 and possession limit of 24, singly or in the aggregate. Shooting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset, with dates to conform to those for mourning doves.

In Texas, an open season on both mourning and white-winged doves of 4 half-days, September 2, 3, 9, and 10, is prescribed only for the following counties: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Culbertson, Dimmit, El Paso, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kenney, La Salle, Maverick, Presidio, Starr, Terrell, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Zapata. The daily bag is 12 and possession limit 24 on each of these species. Shooting hours are from noon until sunset, standard time.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

(In Washington, Oregon, and California)

Between September 1 and January 15, Oregon and Washington may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days; California may select open seasons of 30 consecutive days for each of two areas:

- 1. In the counties of: Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity; and
- The remainder of the state.

In all three states the daily bag and possession limit is 8, and daily shooting hours are 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset.